

From: Martha Baskin <mobaskin@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:51 AM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Another voice urging you to adopt the proposed clean energy code updates for commercial buildings....

External Email

Chair Anthony Dean
State Building Codes Council
Olympia

Dear Chairman Dean --

My name is Martha Baskin. My comments stem from my work with the Sierra Club, 350 and years covering the environment, climate, conservation and local farms. They also stem from a fervent desire to ensure a living planet for all of us -- including the biosphere we rely on.

Rings of fire, off the chart warming temperatures and wildfires, and atmospheric rivers and flooding delaying the ability to prepare land for crops, are red flag warnings. Scientists began expressing concern about climate change in the late 1950's. Then in 1988, NASA's James Hansen, testified at a Senate meeting that he was 99% certain the earth was warmer than had ever been measured and that there was a clear cause and effect relationship with burning greenhouse gases – coal, oil, gas - and global warming. Many took notice but many did not until the repercussions of the climate crisis could no longer be ignored. In our own state, wildfires that destroy forests and communities and droughts and flooding that make farming and the food we rely on all but impossible.

Clean energy solutions have been adopted in many sectors in the state, including for building codes in Seattle, Tacoma and Shoreline, but they've not yet been adopted statewide. Since commercial buildings are one of the largest and most rapidly growing sources of climate pollution. **For that reason I strongly urge the State Building Code Council to recognize the urgency of the moment, the urgency of the crisis, and take immediate action by developing**

the most climate smart building energy codes in the nation. In a climate crisis, there is no place for any fossil fuels - coal, oil, gas – if we want a livable planet. Gas has long been promoted as a “bridge fuel”, a fossil fuel that could help reduce emissions while clean alternatives are harnessed.” But methane leakage, a fast-acting greenhouse gas, has enormous short-term impacts on climate. Methane leaks at every stage of gas production and transportation, making it the greenhouse equivalent of coal, according to some studies.
<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2>

Thank you for considering the proposals before you which heed climate science and reality on the ground by adopting the proposed energy code updates without delay.

Thank you.

Martha Baskin

WA State Resident

10.13.22